

# Drought Preparedness

May 2007



Department of Water Resources

*"We must plan for the future and ask ourselves: will California have an adequate supply of water to meet our needs? For generations, California has been a leader in water conservation. But today we need to take that next step and achieve an even higher level of water conservation."*

— Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Speech to Association of California Water Agencies  
May 9, 2007

The results of DWR's final 2007 snow survey showed Sierra snowpack at 29% of normal, the lowest level in nearly 20 years. Though 2007 was a very dry year, no large-scale water shortages are expected because of ample supplies in reservoirs and groundwater basins. However, Californians must prepare for the possibility of another dry year in 2008. Conservation and integrated regional water management strategies are more important now than ever. Actions DWR is taking to help prepare for a dry 2008 include:

## Dry year water purchasing program

- As in past dry years, DWR will act as a broker in purchasing water from willing parties and selling the water to agencies experiencing dry year needs. DWR will survey local water agencies this fall to assess the level of interest in participating in a program if 2008 is dry.

## Small water systems and private well owners

Past experience has shown that small rural water systems and private well owners dependent on unreliable groundwater sources are the earliest affected by dry conditions. To provide assistance to these water users, DWR will:

- Prioritize Proposition 84 funding for disadvantaged communities, when available through the State budget process, for small systems experiencing water shortage problems.
- Hold leak detection training workshops for small water systems, and provide technical assistance in leak detection.
- Provide information on groundwater and wells for private residential well owners through a traveling educational exhibit.

## Provide information on water conditions, water conservation, and drought preparedness

- Hold workshops for local water agencies that are required by law to prepare Urban Water Management Plans (UWMPs). Workshops will encourage the agencies to review and update the water shortage contingency plan component of their UWMPs.
- Hold workshops at the beginning of Water Year 2008 to assess statewide water supply conditions and preparedness actions for the coming year.
- As Water year 2008 unfolds, distribute climate and water supply forecasts and related information.